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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14737

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IT
SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH DC DEPUTY IN ATTENDANCE AT HILTON MEETING OF PARLIMENTARIANS

1. EMBOFF MET WITH A SECOND TERM DC DEPUTY (BASE FACTION) TO DISCUSS SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4 MEETING OF FIFTY DC PARLIMENTARIANS HELD AT ROME'S HILTON HOTEL AT THE INITIATIVE OF SEVERAL NEWLY-ELECTED MPS INCLUDING UMBERTO AGNELLI. THE PARLIMENTARIAN WHO WAS IN ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THE TWO DAY MEETING, WAS HOPE-FUL THAT THIS INITIATIVE BY APPROX 50 PARLIMENTARIANS WOULD LEAD TO POSITIVE PROGRAM INITIATIVES BY THE DC DESIGNED TO FORE-STALL THE "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" AND TO ENCOURAGE A RENEWED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAY PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE SOCIALISTS.

2. THE DC DEPUTY SEEMED PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. HE INDICATED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD IN NO WAY BE CONSIDERED AN ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT OR THE ZACCAGNINI SECRETARYSHIP. HE CONCEDED HOWEVER THAT THE LACK OF ZACCAGNINI'S LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND HIS ORGANIZATIONAL INABILITIES MAKE THE INIATIVES OF THIS NEW GROUP MORE NECESSARY. REGARDING THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT, THE DEPUTY FELT IT WAS OFF TO A GOOD START AND ANDREOTTI WAS CLEARLY THE BEST MAN FOR THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD. HE MENTIONED HOWEVER THAT THE IMPRESSIVE AGENDA WHICH ANDREOTTI HAS SET FORTH FOR HIS GOVERNMENT OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS IS TO A LARGE DECREE ONE OF REACTION TO PCI PROPOSALS. THIS PROCESS OF DC REACTION TO PCI INITIATIVES IS WHAT THE NEW GROUP WANTS TO REVERSE IN THE FUTURE BY DEVELOPING PROGRESSIVE
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PROPOSALS WHICH WILL APPEAL TO THE DISAFFECTED MIDDLE CLASSES

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WHO HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR THE PCI'S MOST RECENT ELECTORAL GAINS. THESE ARE THE VOTES WHICH THE PARLIMENTARIANS FEEL ARE RE-COUPABLE BY A MORE ACTIVE DC THAT STANDS FOR SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST BEING ANTI-COMMUNIST.

3. THE DEPUTY MADE CLEAR THAT THE GROUP'S INITIATIVE IS BASED ON A STRONG REJECTION OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE AS A POLICY FOR THE DC. THE GROUP WANTS TO REGAIN SOME POLITICAL INIATIVE FOR THE DC WHICH THEY FEEL IS THE BEST FORMULA FOR ATTRACTING THE LAY PARTIES ESPECIALLY THE SOCIALISTS BACK INTO A NEW AND MORE PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DC. THE DEPUTY POINTED OUT L'UNITA'S SEPTEMBER 4TH EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE IMPROBABLE DC OF UMBERTO AGNELLI" AS AN INDICATION THAT THE PCI HAS IMMEDI-ATELY SEEN THE NEW GROUP'S ACTIVITIES AS A THREAT TO THEIR HISTORIC COMPROMISE POLICY. BESIDES THIS THREAT TO BERLINGUER'S POLICY OBJECTIVES, HE SAID ANOTHER PROBLEM FOR THE PCI IS PRESENTED BY THE GROUP'S ACTIVE SOLICITATION FOR A RENEWED RELATIONSHIP WITH PSI. (COMMENT: FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE PCI WILL BE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO WEAKEN THIS FLEDGLING ORGANIZATION IS L'UNITA AND PAESE SERA SEPTEMBER 6 STORIES INDICATING THAT UMBERTO AGNELLI MET SECRETLY WITH THE SECRETARY IN ZURICH.)

4. THE DEPUTY INDICATED THAT A DECISION WAS MADE NOT TO ISSUE A STATEMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETINGS. A BRIEF STATEMENT IF MADE WOULD HAVE APPEARED TOO GENERAL AND COULD SAY NOTHING; A LONGER STATEMENT WOULD HAVE BECOME TOO DETAILED AND COMPLICATED. FURTHERMORE THE GROUP WANTS TO GARNER BROAD GRASS ROOT SUPPORT FOR THEIR EFFORT AND DOESN'T WANT TO GET HUNG UP ON "WORDS". THE NEXT STEP HE SAID WOULD BE FOR THE "50" TO EXPAND THEIR SUPPORT IN THE REGIONS AND WITHIN THE PARTY. "NO" HE SAID THIS IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO FORM A NEW CURRENT. "THAT'SNOT NEEDED BUT, OF COURSE, IF THE "CAPI STORICI" RESIST OUR EFFORTS WE ALL MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER." BEAUDRY

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